

provided the persons concerned had the necessary qualifications. But it was regrettable to find that these instructions were not acted upon by the heads of departments, with the result that the condition of the backward communities remained the same as before. In order to ascertain whether heads of departments followed the circular instructions issued by the Government and to bring to the notice of Government the grievances of the communities concerned in the matter of appointments made by heads of departments, it should be ordered that half-yearly statements of appointments made by them should be published in the *Gazette*. This would enable the representatives of the people to bring to light the defects in the appointments and get them remedied. . .

The Stationary Magistrates were ordinarily recruited from the clerical ranks of the Secretariat and other offices. Magistrates should be recruited from among the vakils also. This would improve the tone of the Magistracy. Magistrates should also be promoted as Munsiffs.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Your suggestions, Mr. Aiyappan, will be considered when we get the report of the Recruitment Committee.

The publication of statements, by caste, of appointments made was refused last year but we are considering that question again.

-172- Public service.

MR. ETTE VARGHESE (*Muvattupuzha taluk*) spoke about the need for due representation of non-Hindus and non-caste Hindus in the public service. He said that for certain special reasons which no longer existed, appointments in the public service were reserved, as it were, to members of certain communities. With the advancement of education and civic consciousness, others also began to realise their position and claim due representation in the public service. It was a well known fact that the progress of Indian States was hampered by communal bickerings. The peace and prosperity of every State depended on a satisfactory solution of this vexed problem of communal claims for public service.

The communities that suffered inequality of treatment in the public service were non-caste Hindus, Christians and Mahomedans. The vagaries in regard to appointments in the public service had been brought to the notice of the Government through the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council. The appointments in the higher ranks had become a monopoly, as it were, to certain communities. In the Revenue Department, 48 of the 58 important appointments were held by caste-Hindus. Of the 400 and odd Provertikars, only 5 were Christians. The Provertikar was an important local officer of the *pākuthi* and in him were vested certain important responsibilities such as the preparation of the electoral roll and enquiry into applications for erecting places of public worship. There was no Christian among the Dewan Peishkars or Division Assistants. The member therefore requested that in the vacancy caused by the appointment of a Division Assistant as Secretary to Government a Christian might be appointed.

In other departments such as the Anchal, Education, the Account Office and the Secretariat, more than 50 per cent. of the higher appointments were held by caste Hindus. The fight for entertainment and representation in the public service was not merely one for appointments alone. The question was intimately connected with the social, economical and political position of every community.

The Government have appointed a committee to formulate proposals for recruitment to public service. But the people have begun to lose faith in committees. The appointment of such committees was but a device to postpone decisions on the questions involved. If the Government were really intent upon accepting the principle of communal representation in the public service, there was no reason why they could not accept the scheme suggested by the public service committee of the Journalistic Association and also by the Catholic Congress in the memorial submitted by them to His Highness the Maha Raja.

Besides inequality of representation of certain communities, there was inequality of representation in regard to certain territorial regions. The attention of the Government was concentrated on the education and advancement of the people of south and central Travancore, while the people of north Travancore were neglected. There were educated men in north Travancore also. In making appointments, territorial representation also should be taken into account besides communal representation.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Varghese, your suggestions will, no doubt, be considered by the Recruitment Committee; but Government have already declared that no percentage or block of appointments can be reserved for any community exclusively. It would not be fair; it would not be feasible. You may be sure that Government will do their best to see that the report of the Committee is presented as quickly as possible.

173. The subordinate service.

SRIMATI T. V. NARAYANI (*Nominated*) said that there was a long-standing complaint that the officers of Travancore were under-paid. But the complaint emanated from the high-paid officers. But really the pay that they were already getting was high in proportion to the revenues of the State. That was why the people were moving for the reduction of their pay. But in spite of these protests, several departments were newly reorganised and new appointments created thereby increasing the expenditure. These reorganisations were the result of the recommendations from time to time of the heads of departments and not the outcome of a fixed policy pursued by the Government in this respect. There were inequalities of pay in regard to officers of the same rank in different departments. The Munsiffs and Tahsildars were instances in point. The same disparity existed in the pay of the peons of the several departments. The peons in Travancore were under